

## **Weekly Address – Together Congress moves Forward with SUPPORT Act**

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Hello, this is your Congressman Michael Burgess.

Earlier this week, I joined the First Lady Melania Trump at her “Be Best” round-table. During the round-table we addressed the anniversary of the SUPPORT Act being signed into law.

This was a bipartisan effort to put an end to the opioid crisis facing many communities throughout our country. The provisional data from the CDC shows that deaths from a drug overdose are declining for the first time in decades.

Tarrant County, Texas saw firsthand the effects of the opioid epidemic as a young baseball player died from an overdose this summer. While the details of his death are still under investigation, it appears that this is an epidemic many families throughout our country are facing. It is so common that Sesame Street has even added a character – Karli – whose mom struggles with a substance use disorder.

This law that passed is a tool in the toolbox for communities and federal agencies to successfully combat the epidemic. It provides realistic solutions that span the breadth of the crisis – from prevention and treatment to education and enforcement. It improves treatment for those with substance use disorders, it also fights deadly fentanyl use, bolsters the efforts of agents at our international mail facilities, and provides vital resources for new innovative alternatives to treating pain.

The SUPPORT Act has been law for an entire year. Yet, Congress has not done our job in ensuring that implementation of this law has happenings correctly.

President Trump said, “Together, we will face this challenge as a national family with conviction, with unity, and with a commitment to love and support our neighbors in times of dire need. Working together, we will defeat this opioid epidemic.”

Together, we can resolve this epidemic. Together, Congress can put forward patient-centered bipartisan legislation to provide real solutions to Americans battling addiction. Together, Congress can ensure that the laws we are putting in place are working.

Passing the SUPPORT Act is just the beginning. It is now our responsibility to make certain that the laws Congress put in place are being implemented and enforced as Congress intended.

As always, I appreciate your comments and your questions on this issue or any other issue. May God bless you and your family, and as the song says, God bless you Texas.